

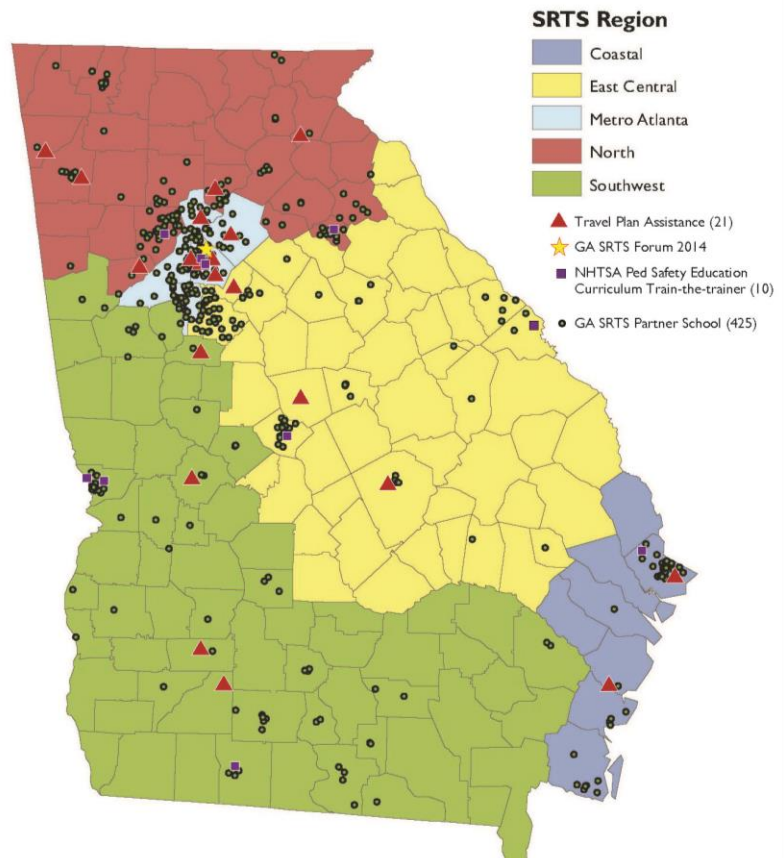


Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center Monthly Progress Report April 2015

The Resource Center serves the State of Georgia by delineating outreach efforts into five geographic territories, serving 430 school Partners across the state. Additionally, the Resource Center has 289 Friends, or community stakeholder partners that support the state's mission, but that are not schools themselves. A map of the five outreach territories and the distribution of SRTS Partner Schools (denoted by dots), is shown on the right. The map also displays locations for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Child Pedestrian Curriculum trainings, the site of the 2014 Georgia Forum, and sites of SRTS Travel Plans administered by the Resource Center since the project's start in 2009.

In April, the Resource Center School Outreach Coordinators (SOCs) held 82 meetings and gave five presentations.

All Partners are listed on the complete Partner list at the back of this report. [Click here](#) for more information about the Resource Center's Partnership program.

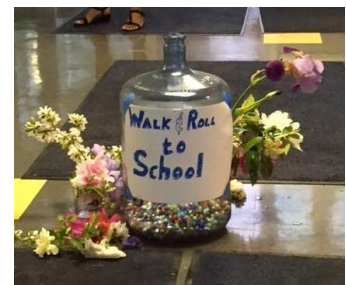


Outreach

Metro Atlanta Territory – Nichole Hollis, School Outreach Coordinator (SOC)

Nichole serves a total of 134 Partner Schools in the Metro Atlanta Territory. In April, Nichole focused her efforts on completing Safe Routes to School Travel Plan Meetings, providing planning assistance to schools participating on Bike to School Day and Month, collecting student travel tally data, encouraging schools to nominate their school for The Partner of the Year Award, and collaborating efforts with the **Dekalb County Board of Health**.

On April 15th, **Weschester Elementary School** (Decatur City Schools) held a walk and roll to school day event. The title of their spring event was "When it rains, We Shine!" On this rainy day, 50% of the school population participated in the event. The picture on the right shows the school's Marble Jar. Students that walk and bike to school add a marble each time they walk. If they reach certain goals, the entire school will get five extra minutes of recess!



Montgomery Elementary School (DeKalb County Schools) held their spring walking

event titled, "The Montgomery Walk", on April 17th. A total of 450 students participated in the event which included walking school buses. Students were excited to receive stickers and bracelets from the resource center as an incentive.

Nichole met with the **Dekalb County Board of Health's** (DCBOH) new Safe Routes to School committee that is focused on sustaining new SRTS programs at prospective partner schools in Dekalb County. The organization has been awarded funding from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** through a three-year grant, titled "The Reach Grant," that will focus on creating and sustaining healthier schools in at-risk communities. Nichole is combining efforts with the DCBOH and helping to identify new schools that fit their initiative.

On April 27th, Nichole held a final meeting with **Henderson Mill Elementary School's** (Dekalb County Schools) School Champions and principal to review and discuss the completed Safety-Focused Report. They planned short and long term action items that included possible funding sources for improved infrastructure, monthly walking events, yearly child pedestrian safety curriculum education, and community organization support.

Charles R. Drew Charter School (Atlanta Public Schools) completed *Meeting 4* for the Safe Routes to School Comprehensive Travel Plan on April 29th. Planner, Ben McCrary, and SOC, Nichole Hollis, presented to the team long and short term next steps based on Safe Routes to School's 5 E'S program model with strong emphasis on engineering and education. The school is excited to continue making improvements to create safer walking and biking routes with help from community partners including **The Georgia Department of Transportation, The City of Atlanta Transportation Department, The Eastlake Foundation, The Atlanta Bicycle Coalition, and The Atlanta Regional Commission.**

In May, Nichole plans to attend Bike to School Day Events and encourage partner schools to participate, attend community health events, and discuss partner level goals with schools for the 2015-2016 school year.

East Central Territory - Taki Smith, School Outreach Coordinator

Taki currently supports 81 Partners in the East Central Territory.

In April, Taki attended meetings with partners and stakeholders. She promoted the Resource Center's Partner of the Year nomination option. Additionally, Taki collaborated with Friend organization **Newton County Family Partnership** and met with the new CSRA Regional Commission Planner, Regina Pyles. Taki also met with and assisted in training the new North Georgia SRTS School Outreach Coordinator, Elizabeth Jones.

Taki has been leading the Resource Center team to coordinate the 2nd Annual SRTS Statewide Forum. This year the forum will be held in Macon. Taki has been diligently planning, organizing, and collaborating with Friend organizations, such as the **Middle Georgia Regional Commission** office in Macon, GA and other Friend organizations in the area.

On April 7th, Taki presented a pedestrian safety lesson to the spring break camp students at **MACH Academy**, a Friend of the Resource Center in Augusta. Taki presented the NTHSA Child Pedestrian Safety Curriculum to a group of three to five year olds. During the presentation, Taki read pedestrian friendly books, and she also taught them how to safely cross the street with an adult. Those books were Duck on a Bike by David Shannon and Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey. Once the safety presentation was complete, the students participated in a pedestrian safety coloring activity. See photo to the right which includes, the MACH Academy camp participants. Each student received a SRTS pencil and bracelet for their participation.



In conjunction with National Bike Month in May, Taki met with **Fairview**

Elementary School, located in Newton County to plan a Bike Safety Assembly that will be held in May. Taki is working with the School Champion as well as reaching out to local bicycle organizations for possible partnership collaborations.

In May, Taki will focus on keeping community stakeholders and schools abreast of upcoming SRTS events and program offerings. Taki will focus on encouraging her schools to complete student travel tallies, register for Bike to School Day, and continue to plan the 2015 SRTS Statewide Forum.

Southwest Territory – Chelsea Carter, School Outreach Coordinator

Chelsea manages 69 Partner Schools in Southwest Georgia. All Partners received promotions each week including informative emails and calls regarding Travel Tallies, Partner of the Year, SRTS Forum, Bike to School Month, and specific local events.

One of the most anticipated events includes the **Southwest Georgia Regional Commission (SWGRC)** as well as **Rubiana Mares** from the **Teens in the Driver's Seat Program (TDS.)** Chelsea Carter and Barbara Reddick from the regional commission held several meetings in preparation for Ms. Mares to travel from Texas to take part in the City of Camilla's **Gnat Days festival** where SRTS, TDS and SWGRC will have information tables as well as types of activities in order to educate, inform, and entertain children and their families. This all-day event will help to reach schools in the region to increase regional participation. Ms. Mares will also have meetings with **South Georgia Regional Commission** and present at a luncheon provided by SWGRC to inform stakeholders. Chelsea will be on hand to support the relationship between TDG and SRTS.

Safe Kids Lowndes County hosted the annual **Bike Smart** event in Valdosta. More than 50 children were registered at the beginning of the event with more arriving through the morning. Children heard a safety presentation and instructions about bike safety before having bikes and helmets inspected. Free helmets were given away, and children were taught how to correctly put them on. The chalk obstacle course taught bike riders the rules of the road. See photos at right.



The push for Student Travel Tallies began this month in order to give schools time to complete data around testing schedules. To increase enthusiasm, as schools complete tallies, they are entered for a weekly Southwest Georgia Region raffle, and all schools are notified of the winner each Monday.

Chelsea has encouraged schools to register events for Bike to School Day. Currently, events registered in the Southwest are more than double the number from 2014 Bike to School Day. Chelsea will continue scheduling events such as helmet fittings, presentations and readings of **Oh, the Things You Can DO That are Good for You** by Dr. Seuss depicting walking health and bike safety.



North Georgia Territory – Elizabeth Jones, School Outreach Coordinator

This territory has 106 Partner Schools. Elizabeth, the new School Outreach Coordinator for North Georgia, began work on April 20th. Patti met with her and provided training April 20-22 in Atlanta. For the remainder of the month, Elizabeth researched her territory and became acquainted with the project tasks. She met with various other

outreach staff members from both Georgia and South Carolina to shadow them on their jobs and train in various aspects of school outreach and Safe Routes to School.

The **Turner Middle School** Travel Plan was in the final stages of completion in late April. The Resource Center expects to provide the final draft to the Turner Middle School committee in early or mid-May.

Coastal Georgia Territory – Patti Sistrunk, School Outreach Coordinator and Project Manager

Patti maintains 40 School Partners in Coastal Georgia.

The Savannah Chatham County School District Campus Police continued efforts with the Resource Center to develop a safety plan for the **Hodge Elementary, DeRenne Middle, and Beach High Schools** area. Patti met with Chief Terry Enoch at the SCCPSS headquarters with **Coastal Regional Commission** staff who have agreed to provide mapping services as part of the planning. Student addresses will be mapped with local resources, network distances, and potential routes. Additionally, Chief Enoch and Patti met with Alison Huffman from **Safe Kids Savannah** to coordinate safety education at the schools. As a result, Patti compiled a list of safety tips for parents including tips to prevent crime. On April 24th, a committee met at Hodge Elementary to continue discussions and share updates on the planning. At that meeting, Patti provided the principals with the list and recommended that the committee members observe dismissal and walk the routes with students. The following Wednesday, a walk audit and dismissal observation took place at Hodge and DeRenne. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11th.

Windsor Forest Elementary continues monthly walk days. This month, the walk took place on April 17th. Approximately 50 students, parents, and volunteers came out including volunteers from **Healthy Savannah, a Friend of the Resource Center**. The final monthly walk to school day will take place in May and will include the Windsor Forest High School marching band and flag line!

Patti presented to the **Safe Kids Savannah Coalition** meeting on Tuesday, April 14th, about National Bike to School Day and about **Global Road Safety Week** which occurs the same week as Bike to School Day. The Global Road Safety Day is a collaborative, international effort including Safe Kids Worldwide and the United Nations to stop road-related crashes that injure and kill children traveling by all modes (car, bicycle, and foot.)

Marketing and Resource Development

The team posted to Facebook 11 times including information about the Forum, promotions for Bike to School Day, and photos from the walk audit at Hodge Elementary. Click here to go to the [Facebook Page](#).

The website was updated with more information about the SRTS Forum, set for June 5th in Macon. The website homepage includes details and links. The schedule was finalized, and a detailed agenda including speakers is being confirmed for publication in early May.

Outstanding Partner of the Year nominations were opened on the website in April. Nominations were accepted through April 27th. Eighteen different schools were nominated. Each SOC coordinates judging of the nominations within their own territory. Community Friends serve as judges. Outstanding Partners of the Year will be announced the week of May 11th, and those schools will be awarded a certificate and may be featured in our upcoming wall calendar.

National Bike to School Day is May 6th. The National Center for SRTS supports registration for this event at www.walkbiketoschool.org. The Resource Center will promote the event, provide support to schools and community partners planning events, and will provide incentives to partners. Incentives include the updated bicycle bookmark

which still has the hand signals and includes bicycle safety tips that coordinate with the [Georgia Bike Rodeo Toolkit](#), which was published to the website in March.

The project team continues to coordinate with the GDOT Communications Team and will work closely with District Communications Officers (DCOs) to promote events and resources regionally and statewide.

Travel Plan Assistance

The Resource Center team finalized work on the Safety-Focused Reports and the Drew Charter Travel Plan. The Turner Middle Travel Plan will be finalized by early May. Those reports will be confirmed by GDOT and the local teams and loaded to the website.

For more information on the planning process, visit <http://www.saferoutesga.org/content/safe-routes-school-travel-plans-and-reports>.

Travel Plan Assistance

Drew Charter School, Fulton County
Turner Middle School, Douglas County

Safety-Focused Report

Henderson Mill Elementary School, DeKalb County
North Mitchell County Elementary, Mitchell County

Thirty Day Look Ahead

The Resource Center team will announce the 2014-15 Safe Routes to School Outstanding Partner of the Year Awards. Additionally, awarded schools will work with their SOC to determine a good time for presentations of the award.

National Bike to School Day is May 6th and is sponsored by the National Center for SRTS. SOCs will continue to encourage schools to register and provide incentives throughout May (Bike Month).

Forum planning continues, and the team will focus on promoting the event to potential attendees through May. The Resource Center expects 150 or more people to attend the one-day conference.

The Outreach team will continue to work with schools, districts, and communities to plan events and resources that support walking and biking programs. Many of the school districts in Georgia close out the year at the end of May. The project team will encourage schools to report SRTS activity for the 2014-15 school year, hold any final events, schedule end of year activities such as walk audits or presentations, and plan for 2015-16.